

INSIDE CORRECTIONS

Official Newsletter
of the Kentucky Department
of Corrections



John D. Rees
Commissioner

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Kentucky Troops Receive Packages From DOC

The Kentucky Department of Corrections collected over \$16,000 from DOC employees, inmates, inmate clubs, and local colleges to send holiday packages to Kentucky service members deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan.

In mid October, when the first letter from Commissioner John D. Rees was sent to you, requesting donations for the "Troop Project," we had no idea what to expect. Each day's mail delivery brought additional funds via cash and checks. When all was said and done, we totaled a little over \$16,000.

Originally, we hoped for a fundraising total of around six to seven thousand dollars and we nearly tripled that early goal.

We quickly formed a committee, got organized and voted on the gift items for the troops. Each of our 600



Inmates at Frankfort Career Development Center and DOC volunteers worked to put the 600 holiday packages together for Kentucky National Guard and Kentucky Air Guard deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan.

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J. Michael Brown tapped as new Justice Cabinet Secretary

By Lisa Lamb
Director of Communications

J. Michael Brown, one of Gov. Steve Beshear's early appointments to major cabinet posts and the first African American, comes to the helm of the Justice & Public Safety Cabinet with a reputation for getting the job done – no matter the task.

Known for accomplishing his missions in a quiet, methodical and professional manner, Brown leaves most who work

around him not only impressed, but determined to live up to the high level of expectations set.

At age 58, Brown has devoted nearly all of his adult life to public service



J. Michael Brown

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Entire Nation Awaits Decision in Baze v. Rees

By Jeff Middendorf

On January 7, 2008, the Kentucky Department of Corrections will enter the national stage before the Supreme Court of the United States in a case that the entire country will be watching.

Oral argument will be heard in *Baze, et al. v. Rees, et al.*, a case that involves the standard that should be used to determine whether a state's lethal injection protocol adheres to the Eighth Amendment ban against cruel and unusual punishment.

Since 37 states, the federal government and the U.S. Military also use a similar protocol and drug combination; the decision could have an impact across the United States in determining how capital punishment will be carried out in the future.

This case has involved many people over the last few years and without their unwavering support, litigating this case may have been more difficult.

Jeff Middendorf

Former General Counsel, Justice & Public Safety Cabinet



The case arises out of two sets of murders for which the Commonwealth of Kentucky has imposed the penalty of death. On January 30, 1992, Ralph Baze ambushed and murdered Sheriff Steve Bennett and Deputy Sheriff Arthur Briscoe of Powell County, Kentucky, when the officers attempted to serve several Ohio felony warrants on Baze.

Baze shot Sheriff Bennett three times in the back with an SKS semi-automatic assault

rifle, killing him. Deputy Briscoe returned fire with a pistol until he ran out of ammunition. Briscoe was attempting to run for cover when Baze shot him twice in the back with the assault rifle. As Deputy Briscoe lay face down and bleeding, Baze punched him with the muzzle of the rifle, then executed him with a shot to the back of the head from point-blank range. Baze was convicted by a jury of both murders and sentenced to death.

On April 9, 1990,

Thomas Bowling shot and killed Eddie and Tina Early, and wounded the Earleys' two-year-old son, as the victims sat inside their automobile in the parking lot of a dry cleaning business in Lexington, Kentucky. Bowling's automobile had crashed into the driver's side of the Earleys' vehicle. After the impact, Bowling got out of his automobile, shot the victims, then returned to his vehicle and fled from the scene.

Bowling was con-

victed by a jury and sentenced to death for the murders of Eddie and Tina Early.

Numerous amicus curiae ("friend of the court") briefs have been filed on behalf of the KDOC and on behalf of Ralph Baze and Thomas C. Bowling which indicates the national importance of this case. The United States Government, Texas, Alabama, Arkansas, Florida and 16 other states have joined in a brief arguing to uphold Kentucky's lethal injection protocol. Groups such as the American Civil Liberties Union, Human Rights Watch and a handful of others have written in support of Baze and Bowling.

The case being argued before the Supreme Court of the United States was originally filed in Franklin

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Commissioner's Corner



John D. Rees

Today we face a critical time in our state with the budget shortfall and you, as correctional managers and employees, will be asked in the coming months to 'tighten the belt' around what many of you view as already strained areas of this agency that you either oversee or work in.

That's when, I believe, our brightest and best will step forth.

As I retire from this agency, I have every confidence in the professionals that I leave who will guide this department through this period of financial constraints and beyond.

We, as a department, have taken great strides to develop our young leaders. No organization can succeed until individuals within it succeed. No group can achieve its objectives until its people achieve theirs.

And let me reiterate, the people in the Department of Corrections are this agency's most important asset.

Sound leadership is especially critical now – when budgets are tight and there are numerous retirements – there is an even greater demand for managers with experience and commitment.

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Troops

From Page 1

men and women received what we felt was a very special holiday package: an "All Kentucky Gift Bag."

The items were packaged in large denim bags made at Kentucky State Penitentiary at the prison's Kentucky Correctional Industries operation.

Your donations allowed us to purchase these items: Unbridled Spirit t-shirt and hat, Mingua Beef Jerky, Pringles potato chips, candy, gum, personal hygiene items, calendars, writing pads with their unit patch as a watermark, DOC lapel pins along

with several other pieces of memorabilia from Kentucky.

In addition, each of the four units was sent two DVD players, several movies, and UK and U of L basketball and footballs.

Each soldier's package included a letter from you explaining Holiday Gift Project, a UK basketball schedule, information about their home state, Christmas cards made by the school children of our surrounding counties and even a DOC recruitment poster.

Frankfort Career Development Center Warden Kim Whitley provided use of the FCDC visitation room for assembling the 600 packages for shipment for Kentucky

National Guard and Kentucky Air Guard.

On Dec. 3, DOC staff, FCDC inmates, and other volunteers collectively worked to assemble the 50+ boxes containing the 600 holiday packages for shipment.

The following day, the gift bags were counted out, placed in shipping boxes, taped for travel, labeled with custom forms and taken to the United States Postal Service in Frankfort. It took one postal clerk the entire afternoon to process our order.

We know from media accounts the packages made it to our troops safely – and in time for Christmas.

(Editor's Note: We thank each and every employee

and member of an inmate club who contributed to this wonderful cause. Hopefully, the packages brought joy to our soldiers who are so far from home this holiday season.

The Department gives special thanks to the organizers of this project, without them it would not have taken place. The DOC Holiday 2007 Project was chaired by Cheryl Million, former public information officer, now Pre-Release Office Kentucky State Reformatory. Committee members included Susie Hammond, Information/Technology; Lisa Howard, Division of Probation & Parole; and Charles Wilkerson, Parole Board.)



For Each Division

In addition to the individual bags for each soldier, each of the four military divisions were sent two DVD players, several movies, and UK and U of L basketball and footballs.

“Dear Cheryl,

Michael Cepeda
B Btry 2/138th FA
Taji Iraq

(The above letter was mailed from Iraq on Dec. 16, and received at DOC's Central Office on Dec. 28.)



Above: Just some of the contents from the “All Kentucky Gift Bag” sent to Kentucky soldiers deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan serving in the Kentucky National Guard and Kentucky Air Guard.

Decision

From Page 2

Circuit Court by Baze and Bowling in late 2004 and has been defended by the Justice & Public Safety Cabinet and the Office of the Attorney General since that time.

The case involved the depositions of 17 individuals, many employees of the KDOC, and a bench trial that took place over two weeks. The Department was successful in defending the lethal injection protocol at that stage.

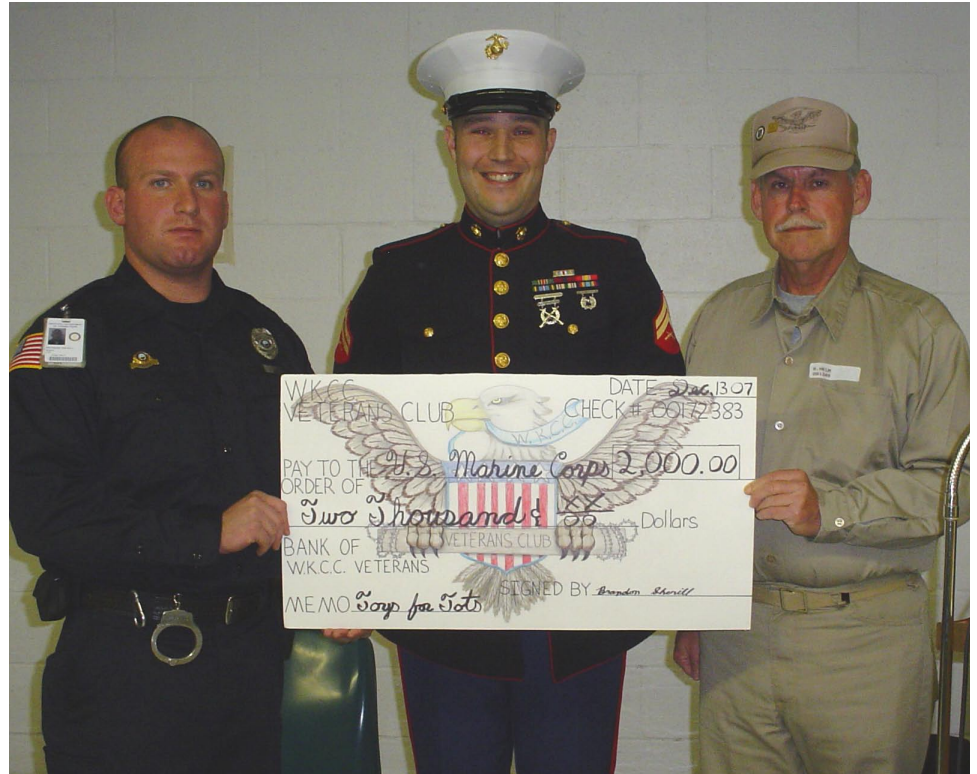
The case then progressed to the Kentucky Supreme Court where the protocol was upheld in a unanimous decision. The Supreme Court will be deciding whether those decisions should be upheld.

This case has involved many people over the last few years and without their unwavering support, litigating this case may have been more difficult. Commissioner John Rees has provided leadership and resources to fully defend the protocol throughout the process.

The professionals at the Kentucky State Penitentiary, including but not limited to, former Warden Glenn Haeberlin and current Warden Tom Simpson have provided the information requested promptly to defend the lawsuit. The case has also been easier to defend because of the professionals comprising the execution team and their dedication to carrying out this difficult assignment. Former Secretary BG Norman Arflack and current Secretary J. Michael Brown have been supportive in this case and have provided the leadership necessary in a case of this magnitude.

The legal teams of the Justice and Public Safety Cabinet, specifically, John Cummings, Holly Harris, Karen Howard and Sara Pittman, as well as the Office of the Attorney General have spent countless hours dedicated to defending the Kentucky Department of Corrections. Roy Englert, a well respected Washington, D.C. attorney who has argued 16 times before the Supreme Court will be arguing on behalf of Commissioner Rees.

The next step in this litigation will take place on January 7, 2008, and a decision is expected during the summer of 2008.



Inmates Support 'Toys for Tots'

Corporal Carper (center) received a check for \$2,000 from the Western Kentucky Correctional Complex Veterans Club in support of the Marines Corp Toys for Tots Program for Western Kentucky. From left to right, Correctional Officer Brandon Sherrill (Sponsor), Corporal Jason Carper (Marine Corp Reserve), and Raymond Helm (Commander of the Veterans Club).

Corner

From Page 2

You've all heard the sayings: "Leaders are made, not born" and, "leadership is an art, not a science."

You can learn to be an effective leader – even in times of budgetary shortfalls – perhaps now even more.

You must open yourself to new ideas and you must also realize that leadership is a combination of knowledge, ethics and good habits.

The transition from management to leadership is one of the toughest things that a leader has to accomplish. It requires hard work and self examination.

Remember, you manage things;

you lead people.

Fundamentally, leadership is helping others accomplish departmental goals because you have instilled in them the will to do what you want done. You've been able to influence the outcome.

Leadership is rewarding in that if you empower and lead people who work for you...in return...you receive recognition, self satisfaction and praise from people above and below you in the organizational structure.

We are at a critical juncture ... in state government as a whole and within the Department of Corrections.

In this time of leaner budgets and more accountability, leaders must rise to the challenge.

Brown

From Page 1

including stints serving as the influential Board Chairman of the Louisville Regional Airport Authority, Law Director for the City of Louisville and District Court Judge.

From the Bronx to the Bluegrass

A native of New York City, Brown grew up influenced and motivated by his parents John Sylvester and Cora Lewis Brown. John was a lieutenant colonel and battalion commander in New York's famous, all-black 369th National Guard.

Brown notes that while he shares the first name of his father, his mother opted against "Sylvester," and added, "she always called me Michael."

Brown graduated from what was at the time one of the most highly rated academic high schools in New York City, Bronx High School of Science, and then enrolled in City College of New York and the school's Reserved Officers Training Corps - the same program that graduated former United States Secretary and Joint Chiefs

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First Prison Visit

Justice & Public Safety Cabinet Secretary J. Michael Brown (right) toured his first state prisons recently. Above, Kentucky State Penitentiary Warden Tom Simpson discussed the upcoming U.S. Supreme Court hearing that will determine whether Kentucky's lethal injection protocol adheres to the Eighth Amendment ban against cruel and unusual punishment. Below left: Sec. Brown also toured the Western Kentucky Correctional Complex where Warden Becky Pancake presented him with gifts grown at the facility: poinsettias from the prison's horticulture program, and popcorn from the massive farm operation. Bottom right: While touring WKCC, Sec. Brown and Commissioner John D. Rees (far left) were given a demonstration of the Department's new Computer-Based Training module.



“Michael is the kind of leader that you can depend on to deliver, whatever the challenge. He’s smart, insightful, determined and resourceful. Governor Beshear made an excellent choice by selecting someone with such a demonstrated passion for public service and commitment to the Commonwealth to head the Justice Cabinet.”

Jerry Abramson
Mayor, Louisville Metro Government

Brown

From Page 6

of Staff Chairman Colin Powell.

Brown’s mother and father constantly emphasized the importance of education.

“I was the first person in my family to make it through college,” said Brown. “My father worked his way up through the ranks. He did not have the benefit of a degree and it’s probably what kept him from going any further.”

In 1970 Brown received his bachelor’s degree in political science and he was commissioned a 2nd lieutenant and served a paratrooper and infantry officer in the 82nd Airborne Division. From that point he attended flight school and piloted helicopters and that’s when his military career eventually brought him to Kentucky.

Brown must have liked what he saw during his stint at Ft. Campbell with the 101st Airborne because he decided to make the Commonwealth his home.

He moved to Louisville in 1977 to enroll in the School of Law at the University of Louisville and graduated in 1979.

The ‘Quiet’ Path of Success

After law school, Brown began what many might term a ‘quiet’ ascension of not only the ladder of personal successes, but also the start of his work in the African-American community with regard to recruiting minority lawyers.

Brown served as chairman of the Kentucky Bar Association Task Force on Minorities and during that time worked to increase the number of African-American lawyers.

When Brown left city government, he accepted a position with the law firm Wyatt, Tarrant & Combs. He became a partner there and in December 2003, left and joined the law firm of Stites and Harbison.

Brown practiced aviation and employment law at Stites and Harbison until becoming a member of Gov. Beshear’s cabinet.

In an article written about him in 1999, then-president and chief executive officer of the Urban League of Louisville, Ben Richmond, had this to say about Brown:

“Brown, in a quiet way, has paved the way for the hiring of African-American lawyers at his firm and others in the state.”

Louisville Mayor Jerry Abramson selected Brown as a



In Step

On impulse, with ‘sidearm’ in hand, a very young J. Michael Brown ran into the parade and joined his father, Lt. Colonel John Sylvester Brown, during a parade in Harlem to honor the famous all-black 369th Battalion returning from the Korean conflict. Brown noted, “while my weapon wasn’t much, at least I was marching in step.”

member of his first cabinet. After Brown left government, the Mayor selected him to chair the Louisville Airport Authority, where Brown oversaw the Hub 2000 construction by UPS.

A New Role

When Brown made his first visit to correctional facilities in early December, he was impressed.

“The visit served as a reminder of how professional and dedicated the staff of our facilities are,” said Brown. “Few citizens really see what these individuals do. They only benefit from the services they give.”

Visit to prison part of holiday tradition for seniors

By MendaIn Cochran
Northpoint Training Center

Christmas is a time of giving for many, and that is no different for those that are incarcerated. The Northpoint Training Center Jaycees Club (United States Junior Chamber) does just that during the Christmas season, give to others, through the hosting of a banquet for the Boyle and Mercer County Senior Citizen Centers.

The first week of December, 67 senior citizens from the Centers arrived for the Jaycees annual banquet.

The group was transported onto the yard by vans right to the doorstep of the Food Service Department where each senior citizen was escorted into the dining hall by a Jaycees member. The senior citizens were seated at festively decorated tables and served a delicious dinner. The dining hall was filled with music from a live band and dancing by the senior citizens and Jaycees members was entertaining for everyone.

Each year the senior citizens and the Jaycees plan and look forward to this annual event. However, it is not just about a great Christmas party, but the chance to give a monetary donation to the Boyle and Mercer County Senior Citizen Centers. The Jaycees present both of the Centers with a check for \$250.

Also, during the banquet, each attendee is presented with a small gift and door prizes are awarded to lucky ticket holders.

During the festivities it is easy for all involved to forget that this is a prison. Walls come down, figuratively speaking, and the simple act of taking time to brighten someone else's day is the most important agenda. Staff members working security at the



Each year a banquet is held at Northpoint Training Center for the Boyle and Mercer County Senior Citizens Centers during the Christmas season. The event has become a holiday tradition for not just the senior citizens, but staff and inmates alike at Northpoint.

banquet enjoy the smiles on the faces of the senior citizens participating in one of the prison's main community involvement projects.

The NTC Jaycees, currently with 33 members, have been donating to the local senior citizen organizations since 1986. In 2006 when the Christmas banquet had to be called off due to inclement weather, a Valentine's banquet was hosted for the senior citizens. The yearly visit from the senior citizens has become such a part of the history of each organization, that even adverse weather cannot thwart the annually celebrated event.

Northpoint Training Center (NTC) Jaycees members do well in the area of service to others. In addition to the Senior Citizen contributions, in 2007 the NTC Jaycees donated \$300 to Big Brothers/Big Sisters, \$225 to a Lexington homeless shelter, \$250 to the Danville Animal Clinic, \$137 to the Bluegrass Community and Technical College at NTC, \$70 to fund the ap-

pearance of the Omega Force Christian Wrestling Team at NTC, \$50 to the National Guard of Kentucky, and \$30 to March of Dimes.

They also created homemade Christmas cards that were distributed to children at the Ephraim McDowell Regional Medical Center, the Charleston Health Care Center and the Salvation Army for homeless people, all in the Danville area. The Jaycees collected and donated Campbell's Soup labels to an elementary school in Danville for supplies. The money to fund these donations and projects is raised by the Jaycees through inmate projects and by the collection and recycling of aluminum cans.

Jaycee fundraisers and projects could not be conducted without the guidance of NTC Jaycee Staff Advisor, Classification and Treatment Officer Eva Cochran. Cochran does an excellent job organizing and overseeing the activities of the Jaycees in addition to her regular job description.